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Hyla viridis, *Bombinator igneus* and *Bufo calamita* were all sensitive to dry-heat applied to the skin or sensory nerves.

The frogs examined in September gave the same result as those examined previously. In the beginning of October, in several *R. temporaria* the skin was found to be no longer sensitive to dry heat, the sensory nerves, however, remained sensitive to this irritant. The *Rana esculenta* were as in the previous month.

The first week of November the temperature was almost continually below the freezing point. On examining the sensitiveness for heat, I found that the *Rana esculenta* had become quite sensitive to impressions of heat. The frogs of the *temporaria* species had at the same time their sensibility for this irritant greatly reduced. At this time I received, through the kindness of my friend Mr. Richard Lomer, who assisted me in quite a number of my experiments, a number of frogs from Heidelberg. At Heidelberg Mr. Lomer found that the skin of the *Rana esculenta* could be irritated by dry heat, while that of the *Rana temporaria* could not.

Immediately on their arrival these frogs were examined, and both varieties were found to be sensible to heat, though the frogs of the *esculenta* species responded much slower than the *temporaria*. At the moment of writing (Nov. 23d) almost all the *Rana esculenta* are insensible to heat. They become sensitive to this agent when their brain has previously been destroyed. Though this is true of the terminations of the sensory nerves in the skin, it is not true of the nerve trunks, these always remaining insensible.

All the varieties of Batrachians that I have thus far examined, appear to be sensible to moist heat from 35° C. upwards.

As it is impossible for me to continue these observations on but a very limited number of Batrachians, it would afford me great pleasure were any of the readers of the AMERICAN NATURALIST, many of whom have such excellent opportunities for such researches, inclined to assist me in these investigations. It would be of great interest to know in all these examinations the locality, the time of the year and the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere in which the experiments are made.—B. F. LAUTENBACH, Geneva, Switzerland, Nov. 23, 1878.

ANTHROPOLOGY.¹

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—The third number of the *American Antiquarian* contains the following papers: Native American Architecture, by E. A. Barber; The phonetic elements in American languages, by Dr. J. A. Farquharson; The inscribed stone at Grave Creek mound, by Prof. M. C. Read; Traces of Bible facts in the traditions of all nations, by Rev. Stephen D. Peet; Mythological text in the Klammath language, with comments by A.

¹ Edited by Prof. OTIS T. MASON, Columbian College, Washington, D. C.

S. Gatschet. Nearly one-half of the number is occupied with correspondence and notes that are quite as valuable as the more extended articles, if the authors of the latter will pardon us. It should be well understood that very few of our special periodicals are paying expenses. In order to keep them alive, therefore, the friends of that branch of knowledge must make sacrifices to sustain them. So let it be with the *Antiquarian*.

We have received from the author, Mr. John Campbell, M. A., Montreal, a pamphlet entitled, "The affiliation of the Algonquin languages." The paper is supplemented with a linguistic chart showing the supposed affiliation of the Algonquin tongues with the Malayo-polynesian, Ural-altaic, Asiatic-hyperborean and Peninsular languages.

The volume containing the report of the forty-fourth session of the Congrès Archeologique de France, held at Senlis, in 1877, is devoted principally to that branch of archæology which is outside of our area. There are a few interesting illustrated papers on the prehistoric archæology of France which will pay the perusal.

The first and the second fasciculus of the *Bulletins* of the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, for the year 1878, contain very valuable matter of general import.

On page 13 Paul Bert speaks of barometric pressure as a factor in civilization, on the occasion of presenting his book entitled: *La Pression Barometrique, recherches de physiologie expérimentale*.

On page 56 is a communication, by M. Coudereau, upon the precocity of development in relation to nourishment. At the close of the article is a series of questions which M. Condereau proposes to be put in the hands of travelers.

The article by Dr. P. Topinard on the insertion of the hair of negroes in tufts is as interesting as it is original. We make a few extracts from it. "The fundamental division of the human races into two branches rests, by common consent, upon the characteristics of the hair; of this classification Bory de Saint-Vincent is the author. The first branch contains the races with straight hair, the second, the races with woolly hair."

There is a subdivision of the second branch made by M. Haeckel, and generally accepted. It depends upon the manner in which the woolly hair is distributed over the surface of the body and more particularly of the head. In one case their insertion is continuous, like the straws in a field of wheat. In the other it occurs in bouquets, or isolated tufts, having between them free spaces where the skin is glabrous. M. Haeckel calls the former *ericoimi*, the latter *lophoconi*. The origin of this character, of such great importance, if it is true, goes back to Barrow, at the commencement of this century. The Hottentots, said he, have hair of a singular nature; it does not cover the head totally,

but is in little tufts a small distance from one another. When they cut it short it resembles a shoe-brush, with this difference that the tufts are twisted into little knots the size of a pea. The same assertion is made by travelers concerning other negro races.

But as far as my observation goes, the character according to which M. Haeckel and others cut into two subdivisions, the grand branch of negroes does not exist at all. Among all the negroes the hair grows uniformly upon the surface of the head and of the body. Among all there are tufts. But these tufts are not indicated upon the skin. The hair of the negro varies in aspect more than people ordinarily imagine, as Hombron was one of the first to remark. It is presented under three principal forms, between which there are all sorts of intermediary groups.

The first is the typical form, which characterizes most generally the inferior negro races, to which the Hottentots belong; it is the arrangement of the hair called "grains of pepper." This appearance is produced by the shortness, the turns of the spirals being very close and giving rise to very narrow coils or rings, perhaps 2-4 millimetres; by the hairs being very numerous; and finally, by the total abandonment of the hair to itself.

The second is in the form of locks twisted in curls, small or large, from 6-8 millimetres in diameter; locks which one might speak of as *tufts*, but much elongated, at times reaching 25 centimetres (Fritsch). Evidently Barrow meant this, when speaking of certain Hottentots, "when they let their hair grow, it falls on the neck in twisted tassels, somewhat like fringe," this form and the preceding Bonwick observed among the Tasmanians.

The third form is presented in the shape of a cushion or compact mat, more or less large, elastic, returning to its original curl when compressed with the hand. It is a distribution of the hair in which the spirals are mixed, confounded without the least appearance of order. It is encountered most frequently in the negro races with long hairs and at the same time with less savage races who take some pains with their toilet. It is in this form that we meet these bizarre coiffures, described by travelers among the Caffres, Mpongwes, Somalis, Papuans, etc.

These same hairs, sufficiently abandoned to themselves, return to the preceding form with more or less facility.

Finally, taking into account my own experience, and after attentively reading the travels describing the Hottentots, Papuans, and other negroes, I conclude that the division of the woolly-haired races by M. Haeckel into *lophocomi* and *eriocomi* is without foundation. On page 94 will be found the report of a committee consisting of MM. Bordier, Topinard and Bertillon, to examine a negro in one of the hospitals.